- An order has been issued imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use. The order is in respect of stocks of domestically produced sugar.

Futures trade in sugar has been suspended in domestic exchanges *w.e.f.* 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Sale of paddy at lesser rate

3262. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Orissa are selling paddy at much lesser rates as State Government agencies are not coming forward to purchase it from farmers; and

(b) if so, whether that is the main reason for farmers suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Under the existing policy for foodgrains procurement, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Agencies of State Governments purchase all the foodgrains, conforming to the prescribed specifications, offered for sale by farmers at procurement centers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

As reported by FCI, there have been no reports of distress sale of paddy by farmers in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

Insurance scheme for fishermen

3263. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an insurance scheme for fishermen and fishworkers;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) whether it requires that the person concerned should be missing for seven years for the dependent to get the claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Under the "Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen" which is a component of the Centrally Sponsored 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, fishermen are insured for Rs. 1,00,000/- against death or permanent total disability and Rs,. 50,000/- for partial permanent disability. The benefit of this scheme accrues to the fishermen free of cost as the entire amount of annual premium *i.e.* Rs. 29/- per fishermen per year is subsidized by the Central and the State Governments on 50-50 basis. In case of North-Eastern States, 75% premium amount is subsidized by the Centre and 100% in case of Union Territories. All the fishermen registered/ licensed with the State/Union Territory Governments between the age group of 18-70 years are eligible for insurance